MINK

6

Megumi Tachikawa

TOKYOPOP

The Wildcat constellation has first magnitude stars!
電脳少女☆
サイバーアイドル
Mink
ミンク
6

電脳少女☆ Mink

Volume 6

By
Megumi Tachikawa

TOKYOPOP

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WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF

電脳少女☆Mink

▶▶ Welcome to the World of CYBER IDOL MINK ▶▶▶

CHARACTERS

Mink

This is Mink after she has morphed into an idol!

Mink Shiraishi, in her second year of middle school

Mahoko's morphed form

Kanoka's morphed form Canon

Canon

Maco

Kanoka Moriyama

Mahoko Toriumi

Mink's best friends, and fellow members of the band Minkie.

Om, WANNA-BE software's information guide

Motoharu Toriumi, Mink's hot-blooded manager (and Mahoko's older brother)

Kyo J. Falwell, the creator of WANNA-BE, who has arrived from the future.

WANNA-BE, the software from the future that lets you be who you wanna be.

STORY

Thanks to futuristic software package WANNA-BE, ordinary pre-teen girl Mink Shiraishi can turn into Cyber Idol Mink with just a click of a mouse. She's not that into being a celeb—what motivates her is really just her crush on Motoharu, her manager, whose success as a talent agent rides largely on her career. When Kyo—WANNA-BE's inventor—shows up, he threatens to reveal Mink's true identity to Motoharu if she doesn't follow his orders. With Mink at his mercy, Kyo gets started with his plans to use his software for world domination. He manages to cause a whole lot of chaos before Mink figures out that Kyo's not so bad—he's just extremely lonely. Mink reaches out her hand to him...just as Cyber Security shows up!

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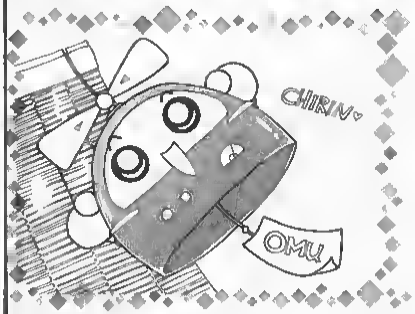
Hello! This is Megumi Tachikawa.

Well, here it is, the last volume of Cyber Idol Mink. Once again, I've done all the costume design myself. But thank you to everyone who sent in the many design ideas. I'm sorry that I couldn't use them all in this manga, but I do value each of them and will keep them as my treasures. We have fewer bonus pages this time around, so let's get right to the Q & A. Here we go!

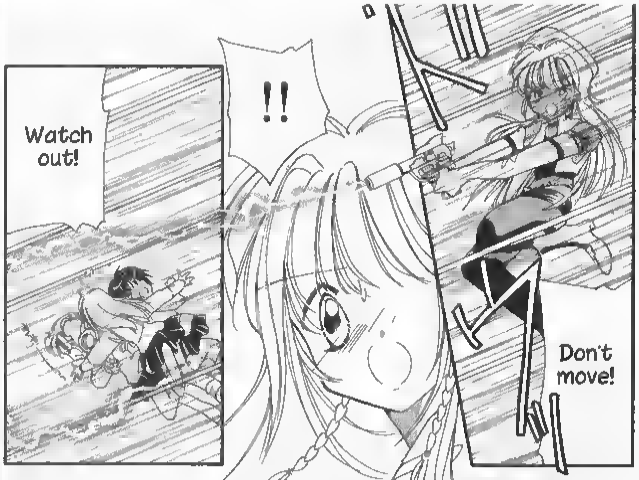
Q: What's the story behind your pen name?

A: I'm asked this question all the time, and I've been avoiding it (it's not a particularly interesting answer). But, for the record, "Megumi" is really my younger sister's name. The spelling is different, but I think it still sounds cute. When I was thinking up a last name, I saw the name "Tachikawa" listed in a real estate flier I was looking at (it's the name of a place). I figured anything was fine, since it's not a real name, but maybe I should have picked something a little more exotic. Ya think?

Mi-n……
!!
……!
ズ…
!!

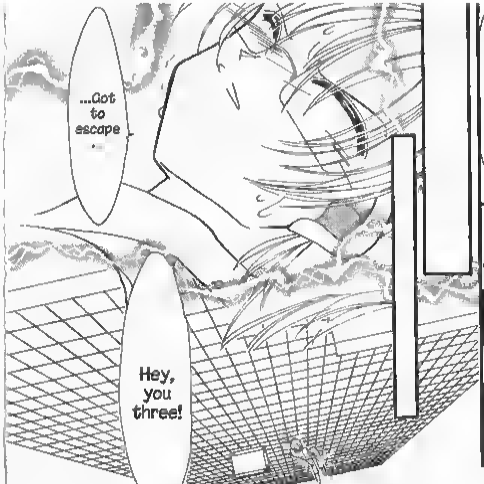

CHIRIN♪
OMU

Cyber Security?!
We have a warrant for the arrest of Kyo S. Falwell and the members of Minkle.
You are being charged with violating the Space-Time Management Law, as well as with using the contraband WANNA-BE software...

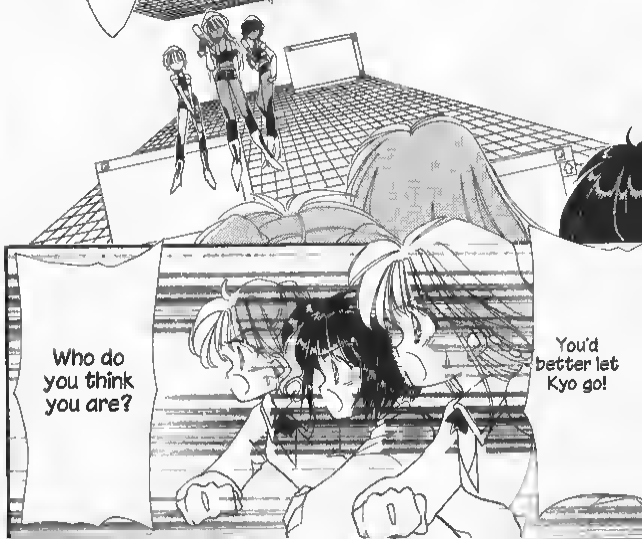

Watch out!
!!
Don't move!

The Federotion's Supreme Institute's special agents...
Don't you know who they are?

That's right. We're the special team tasked with pursuing and capturing those in violation of Space-Time Management.
We have come from the year 2099 in order to arrest you!

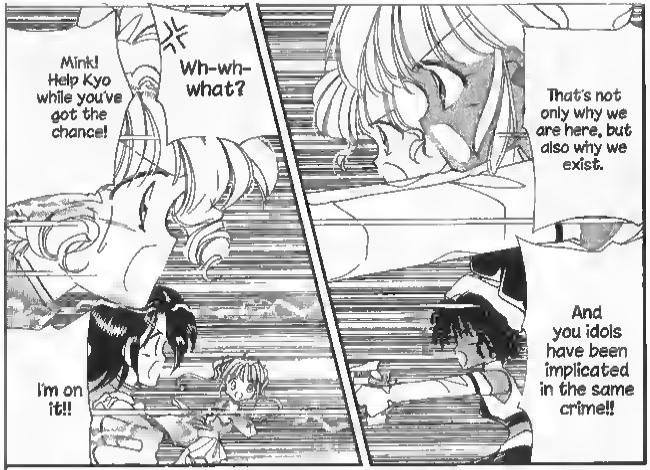

...Got to escape
Hey, you three!

She's not here...
Where could she have gone...?


Who do you think you are?
You'd better let Kyo go!

WANNA
Set up!!!

Mahoko! Kanoka! Om!
WANNA-BE
Stand by!
Let's go!


Mink! Help Kyo while you've got the chance!
Wh-wh-what?
That's not only why we are here, but also why we exist.
And you idols have been implicated in the same crime!!
I'm on it!!

Kyo, are you okay?!

Stop it!
I won't let you do that!

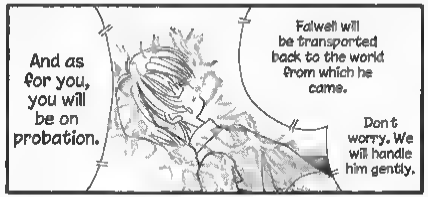
I don't care what your reason is!
Sleep!!
You can't just go around pointing guns at people!!
We've already neutralized the program!!
It's no use.
...has uploaded himself into the present and utilized the contraband software, WANNA-BE, from the D. W. Corporation.
Falwell, in addition to violating Space-Time...

Wait!
Delete us?
KYAAA!!

K.A-CHIK
She just doesn't know when to give up!
If you continue to resist...
Mink!!
...we'll have to delete all three of you!!
!!

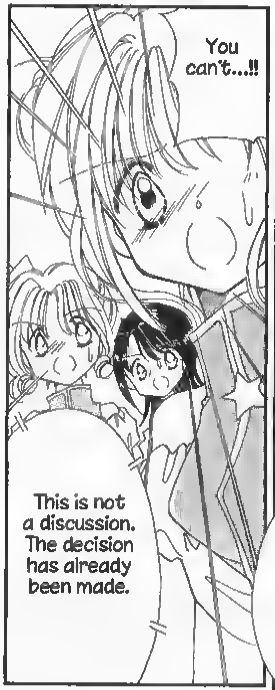
Pleased to meet you.
I regret that my subordinates have made things unpleasant for you.
!
You understand, don't you? There's only one way to do that this late in the game.
I must delete you all.
You may have also altered the Future, which is our current world...
We manage Time-Space. Unfortunately, with the use of WANNA-BE, you have already changed much of history.
It is my responsibility to stop such actions.

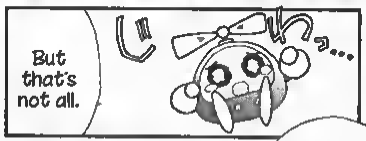
Commander?
NAAAH
!!
Huh?
It's Cyber Security Central Command!


And as for you, you will be on probation.
Falwell will be transported back to the world from which he came.
Don't worry. We will handle him gently.

The probation period ends December 31st.
At that point, deletion will be complete.

He'll erase all your data, and there'll be no more morphing, no more Cyber Idol Mink.
Delete? What does that mean?!


You can't...!!
This is not a discussion. The decision has already been made.


But that's not all.
Uuuu...

People who have been affected by WANNA-BE...
All their memories of you will be erased.

Motoharu won't remember that I ever existed.
We only have until the end of December.
That was quick!

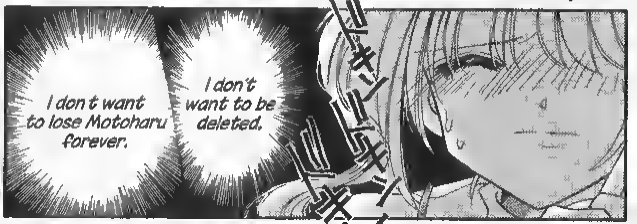
Kyo!!
We're going to be deleted.
Hi, guys!
You have until then...
...to put your affairs in order.

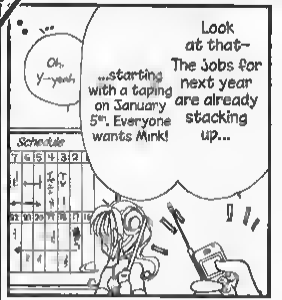
Motoharu...
Mink, how are you feeling?
Didn't catch cold?
All the fans who cheered for us. The entire staff.
And also...
Hey, the tour posters are here!

The last show is on December 31st when we're back in Tokyo.
We'll be performing for the New Year's Countdown.
There's even a live internet feed!
December 31st!!
But that magic wears off at midnight...!!
Mink, you'll be able to show the entire country how magical you are!
?
I'm not going. I'm not going. I'm not going. I'm not going.
Well, anyway, this is gonna be awesome.
Our first national tour!
We've sold over 100,000 tickets already!
Wow!!
And I love the theme—Mink as Cinderella.
?

Hey!
Good morning!
You're gonna make yourself sick, working so hard.
What do you mean? I don't know how to work any other way.
But where are you going?
Oops
The concert tour is starting soon...
...so we have to clean up the rehearsal room.
Like that old saying, "A departing bird shouldn't leave a mess."

Songs I've been listening to
"Shanty" by Hitomi Shimatani
"Sugarless" by Kae Sugashi
"LISTEN TO MY HEART" by BOA
"First Kiss" by Aya Matsuura
"DEEP RIVER" by Hikaru Utada
"It's a Wonderful World" by Mr. Children
"Ashitametan" by Kae Sugashi
"On a Long Sunday When We Couldn't See Each Other" by Miki Fujimoto
"Ever Since" by SAYAKA
"Summer Lightning" by GRAPEVINE
"Ever After" by Yumi Sada
Dramas I've watched
Star's Love First Love The Wedding Planner, The Power of Love, Long Love Letter, The Drift Class, Gokusen, A Billion Stars Falling from the Sky, Antique
My favorites are The Power of Love and Star's Love Books
I've read Lord of the Rings by J. R. R. Tolkien (I've only read the first book so far It's long!) LOVERS by Kaori Ekuni
One other is Hostage Canon by Miyuki Miyabe



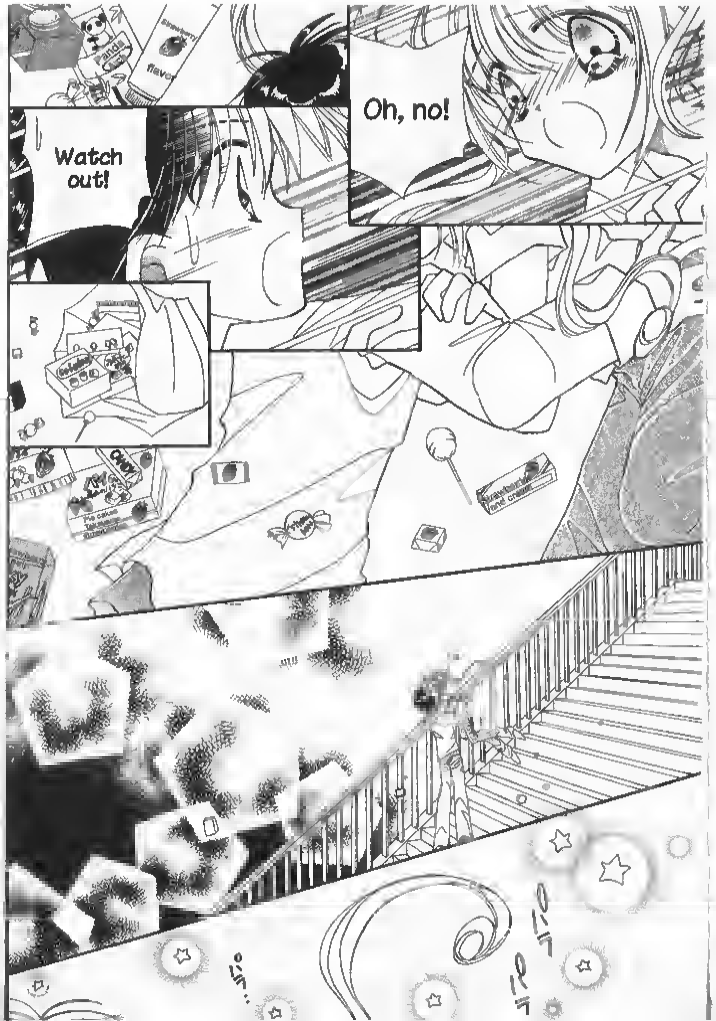

Oh, y--yeah.
...starting with a taping on January 5th. Everyone wants Mink!
Look at that-- The jobs for next year are already stacking up...
Schedule

I have to get out of here!
TURN
Hey, where's Mink?
I better cut this out.
We're practicing Cinderella's staircase scene.
So she's right by the emergency exit.
Makes sense, doesn't it?
Emergency Exit

There's nothing wrong. I'm always 100% cheerful!
What on earth are you talking about, Motoharu? You silly!
C'mon! Let's keep up the good work!

Somehow...
...I always knew this would happen.
One more time!
The software itself warned us. This is fate.

Motoharu—
I wonder if Kyo's okay.
Is the 31st really the end for us?
Yeah.


Watch out!
Oh, no!
Strawberry Love Cream
Oh!

Oh, Motoharu...
Of--
Of course not! People can't disappear.
That only happens in fairytales!
You're not going to disappear...
Oh!
I get it. You've been thinking about the tour so much...
...that you're confusing me with Cinderella.
...when the clock strikes twelve, are you?

Huh?
All of these...
What's this?
...Motoharu?
You remembered how much I love strawberries!
I can't.
I won't ever forget.
But me...
But you're going to forget all about it so soon...
They're all strawberry-flavored.
No way. Even the tooth-paste!
There's chocolate and hard candy...
Wafer
Strawberry gum
Ice cream...
Um-uh--ah--
Uh-
I dropped all of them!

Thank you for your patience.
We now present to you, Minkie!
12.31
Hot group.
National Concert Tour
Live performance Tokyo Dome countdown with 100 000 fans
Minkie
Big plans for a national tour!!
Audience numbers to top— 110,000!!
...Im going to do the best show ever!
Until that final curtain falls...
...I'm Cyber Idol Mink.
The Cinderella Girls extravaganza is about to begin!
Whew! That was close.
Thank you for catching me, Motoharu!
And now...
I'll never forget that.
Me, a modern-day Cinderella.
WANNA-BE
...The day I found the magic of WANNA-BE...
...was the day Motoharu found me.

Don't be nervous. You've done this a hundred times before.
Okay. Places, girls!
I'm here for you.
I'll never forget...
Let's jam, girls!
Let's do it!
ONE
TWO
ONE TWO
Three
The angel's wings that Motoharu gave to me...

Finally...
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
...we've come to the end.
At exactly midnight, the deletion will be complete and our Job will be done!
BEEP

Please, stop it!!
It's my fault, not theirs. Just leave them alone!
These are my first friends! I beg you!

We don't need a pumpkin coach.
We don't need the flowing gowns.
We don't need a glass slipper.
If only...
If only there was something we could do.
...we could stop the clock.
If only...?

ENCORE!!
はあっ
はあ
ENCORE!!
ENCORE!!
ENCORE!!
Great work!
It's almost the new year! Hurry up and get changed!!
Ten seconds till midnight.
The new year is about to start!!
ENCORE!!

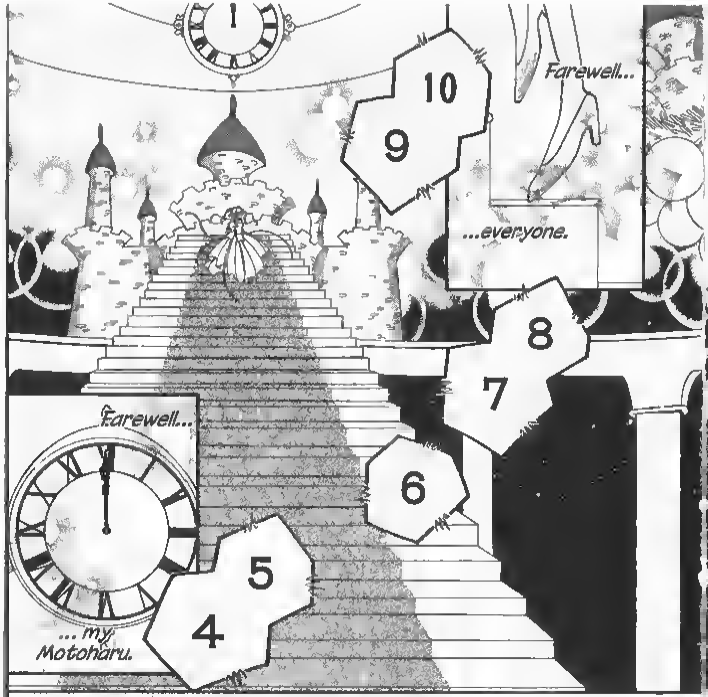
But at midnight...
Every body!
We love you!
...Stop the hands of time!
We love you!!

I couldn't keep my promise.
I'm sorry.
6
7
8
9
10

WANNABE
3
It's exactly midnight.
5
4
...Mink!!
...is over
2

Chapter 26

Cinderella Limit (Part II)


Farewell...
...everyone.
Farewell...
...my Motoharu.

I couldn't keep my promise.
It's midnight.

WANNA-BE quit.
I'm sorry.

1
Goodbye...
Mink!!
O!!
Mink

It's midnight. Time to complete the deletion.
2
3

What the—
I don't remember coming here.
What is that? Whose poster?
It's mostly blank.
Hey—
Whose CD is this?
No idea.
A...
...concert?

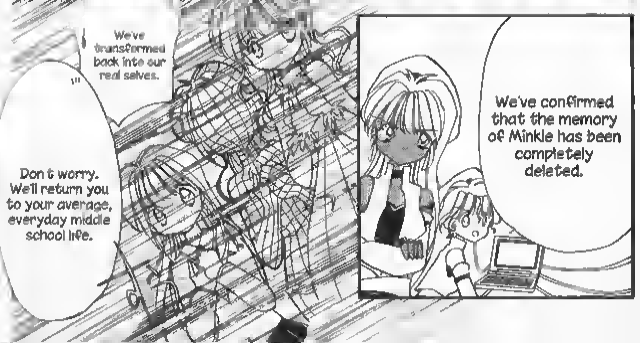
Mi...?
!!
A performance?
What's this?
Hey...
What were we doing here?
A per...
...formance.

Concurrently, we will erase your memory of having been the celebrated Minkle.
You will also forget about WANNA-BE.
!!

!!
My body is being torn apart.
I feel light-headed.
Wa-wait-
KYO!!
Before I forget that he existed-

This is it.

It was fun while it lasted.
Yeah.


We've transformed back into our real selves.
Don't worry. We'll return you to your average, everyday middle school life.
We've confirmed that the memory of Minkle has been completely deleted.

Forget what?
This person...
...he is my...
...is my-

I want to thank you...
...for all the Joy that WANNA-BE brought me.
I was so happy being part of Minkie.
Thank you for making WANNA-BE
Thank you, truly...
...Kyo!
Don't forget.
No!
Forget?
Nothing I created could quit so easily. Right?!
You can't just give up.

Huh?
Don't ...
...forget me!
Yes! She's the one I discovered!!
Don't ...
.....
forget...
me ...
...please!
Don't forget me...
What is that song?
I think I know that one.
Don't forget me...
A little bit of heaven on earth...
I know that one, too.
Let's go home.
Yeah, let's go home.
Well... huh?
Whaat?
Was someone playing here?
This was a big concert.
The performers should be...
...here somewhere.

Mi
It's a...
...small sign...
...Velvet Angel.
He's-
He's calling.
Because I'm looking at you.
Forever.
I have to go.
Calling...

Angel Velvet
Because I'm looking at you...

...Let's see...
...where destiny takes us.
Because I'm looking at you forever.
I have to go.
From now on...

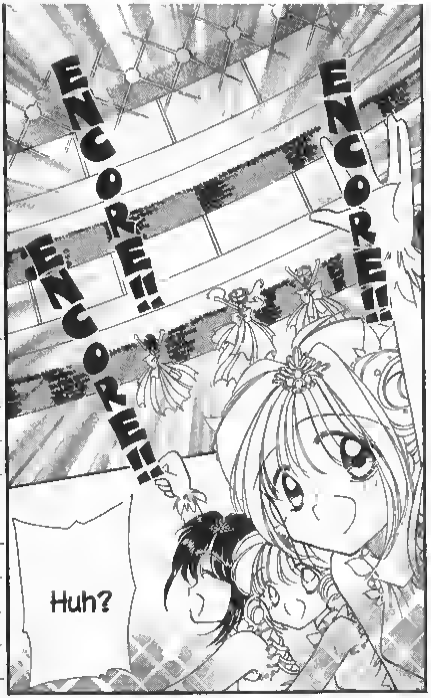
Special thanks.

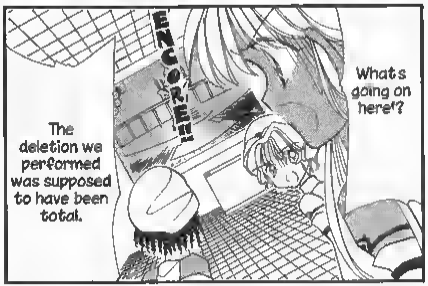
Miyuki Okazaki
Miwa Ishioka
Midori Kayano

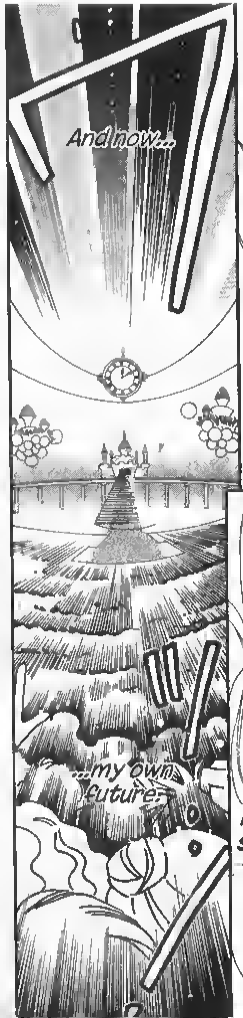
Harumi Minami

T Kamagata.
M Okumura.
H Maruyama.
H Osano

To all my family,
and to all my fans,
I truly thank you







If those girls live on in people's hearts...
...we can't go around deleting that, can we?
Hmmm.
Let's observe this a little longer.
Thank you.
Y-yessir!
I won't forget you, Mink.
You're more than just a program.

Comm-
Commander!!
Even with the technology of the year 2099...
...it's encountered something it can't erase.
Our program...
Their impact was too profound.
They touched people's hearts.
We've never encountered this in the program.
Something that has made an impact, but won't alter the future can't be totally deleted.

Wa-wait a minute.
We're still getting dressed!
Let's go live, Minkle!!
And then, of course...
...we were really busy with work as we sped into the New Year.
Ouch. Ouch. Ouch. Ouch. Ouch.
I'm sorry
Sorry!
Just take her again

You're the angel who reached out to me when no one else would.
HAPPY
NEW YEAR!
NEW
YEAR

A shrine?
Oh yeah—
Will you two excuse us?
Or at least me
Is this my chance?
What did you wish for?
Enjoy your visit to the shrine!
Get some good luck for the New Year!
See ya!

Then we have to tape the segment for the TV special.
Mink, we have to get to the magazine shoot.
ENOUGH ALREADY!
ENOUGH!!
Hurry up, you have that costume fitting for the song program!
How is your New Year's greeting from the past?
That's good, he seems okay.
Meanwhile, Kyo has been furtively. .
. .sending e-mail from 2099.
It's stuffy in here. Let's go outside for some fresh air.
Excuse me, Motoharu, Mink is looking a little peaked.
Nooo! I've reached my limit.
Oh, there's too much to do.
Huh?! Me?
What's going on?

Okay.♪
Come on, let's get out of here
Always.
I want to be by his side.
Hmm?
Umm-
Hey, isn't that Mink?
Really, where?
There! There!
No way would Minkie really come here?
Mink?
Now and forever more.
Where? Where?
Mink? Is that really her?
Look at that
Look closely
It's them!

Q How did you think up their costumes?

A My main sources for ideas are fashion magazines and ethnic costumes. In the case of Mink herself, I also looked at a lot of TV music shows and video promos. For this volume, I also relied on the help of really strong designers throughout the country.

Q What kind of guys do you like?

A Somehow these kinds of questions always make me embarrassed. But I'll try to answer this time because I get asked them so often. (And this is the last volume in this series.) Honestly, I like someone smart. I'd love to meet someone with glasses and a side part who looks good in a suit. On the other hand, I have a weakness for guys who are a little wild. If it's a choice between athletic types, I like baseball players better than soccer players. (I wonder if this is going to be hard to explain.) I've realized recently that I'm also usually attracted to guys with thick necks. I liked guys like Teruyoshi Uchimura and Kazushige Nagashima as soon as I saw them, you know. Of course, I like them to have gentle personalities, but I also want someone who occasionally gets a little pissed off at some of my questionable behavior. That's my bottom line.

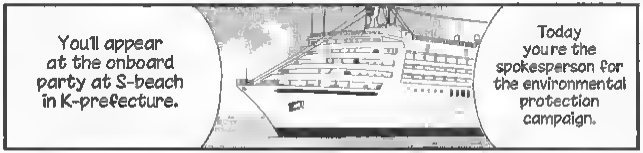
I object!!
object...

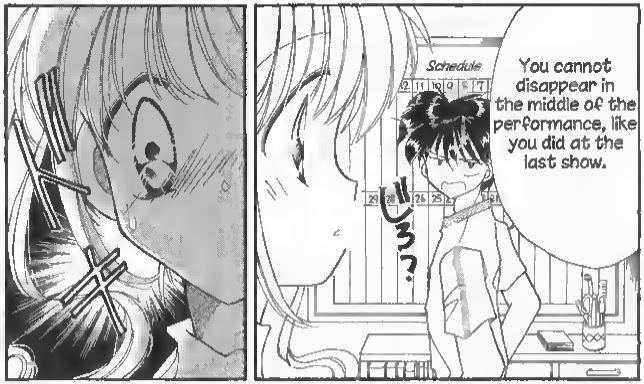
電脳少女☆Mink
Cyber Idol Mink
Conclusion
The Island of Shooting Stars (Part I)

It was just...
...a dream!
...Cyber Idol Mink!
Born from the software of the future...
Fine u up yet? Please go directly 2 the office -Tonumi
Oh!
Yikes! I'm late for work!
The truth is that this "it" girl is me.
She's the "me" that little Mink Shiraishi transforms into.
WANNA-BE
STAND BY

Huh?!
Ooooww.
Ouch ouch ouch ouch.
What's going on here?!

Or, isn't supposed to anyway.
But...
Good morning!
...But my manager, Motoharu, doesn't know this.
Morning
And so...


You'll appear at the onboard party at S-beach in K-prefecture.
Today you're the spokesperson for the environmental protection campaign.


Schedule
You cannot disappear in the middle of the performance, like you did at the last show.

Set up!!
P
P
P
P
P

We have to get to the TV station.
Nah, never mind.
Focus on your work, don't get distracted by my dumb old birthday!
Okay, we're turning on the mic.
Promise me one thing.
Please don't ask me...
...who I really am.

HEY!
M-Motoharu, isn't it your birthday soon?
Change the subject, change the subject.
Is there anything you want?

Mink-
Yes?!

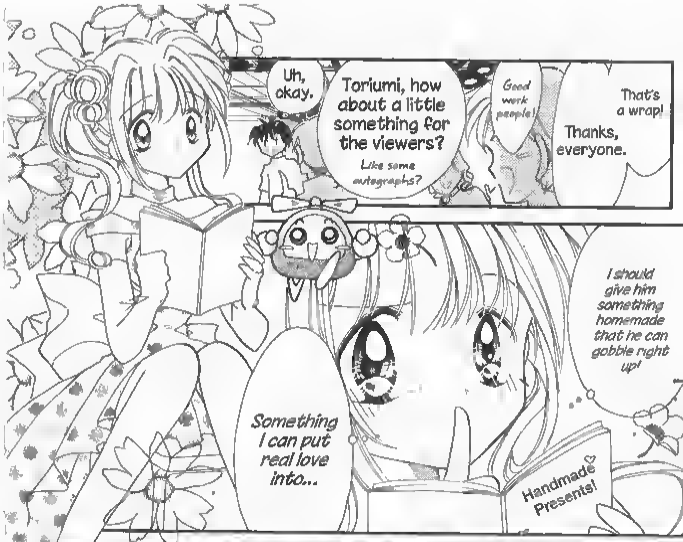
Ever since I was erased at the concert...
Motoharu...
Something's felt off about Motoharu.
Yeah, that must be it.

Yeah, I've begun to wonder about the two of them lately, if you know what I mean...
Hey, hey! I bet it's for her cute manager!
Azumi!!
It's been a while!
The "It" girl idol, Mink, hooking up with her manager...
And Johnita, too.

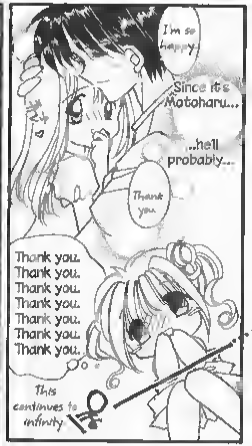
What should I do?
Cut this out!
I haven't even told him myself.

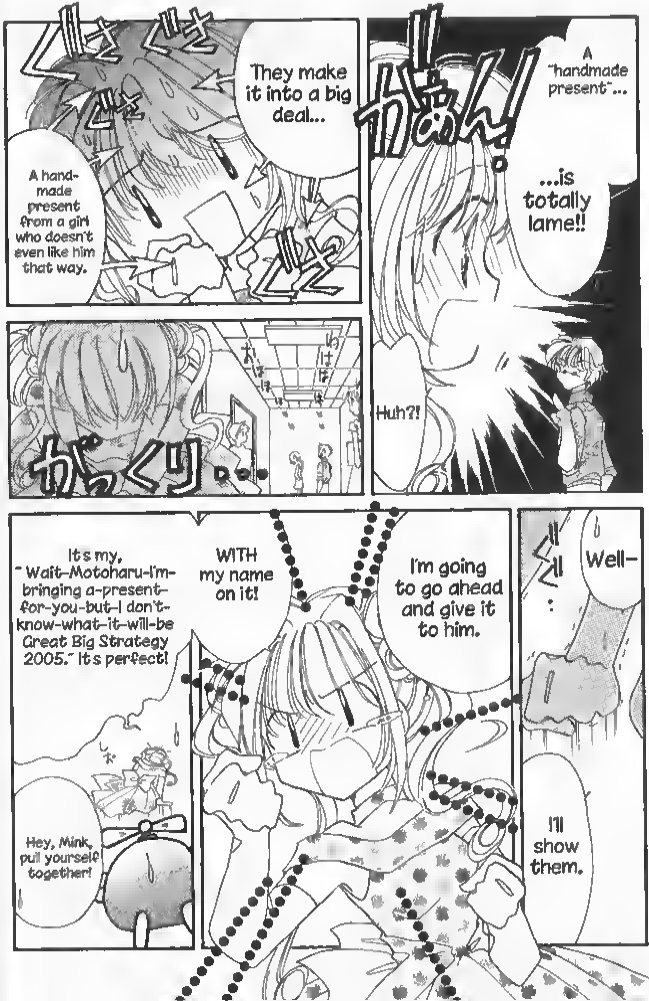
Wait!

You didn't guess anything.
EVERYONE LOVES A SCANDAL!
BINGO—we guessed it, didn't we!?


Uh, okay.
Toriumi, how about a little something for the viewers?
Like some autographs?
Good work people!
That's a wrap!
Thanks, everyone.
I should give him something homemade that he can gobble right up!
Something I can put real love into...
Handmade♡ Presents!

Oooh! Who's the present for?
どっき


I'm so happy.
Since it's Motoharu...
..he'll probably...
Thank you.
Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.
This continues to infinity


They make it into a big deal...
A hand-made present from a girl who doesn't even like him that way.
A "handmade present"...
...is totally lame!!
Huh?!
WITH my name on it!
I'm going to go ahead and give it to him.
It's my, "Wait-Motoharu-I'm-bringing-a-present-for-you-but-I don't-know-what-it-will-be Great Big Strategy 2005." It's perfect!
Hey, Mink, pull yourself together!
Well-
I'll show them.

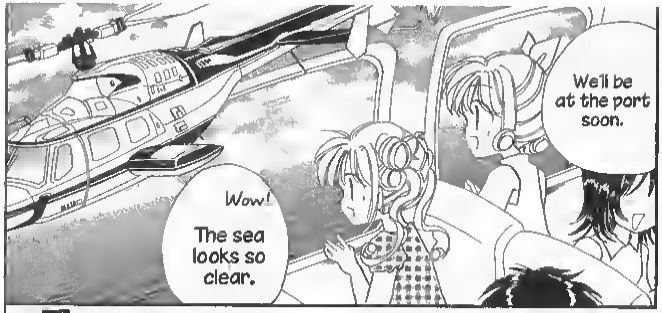
We're wishing for the perfect...
...scandal.
Ah.
That's right. I should be kind and inform you.
So how about you invite me to the yacht party?
Um... Anyway...
I'm going, of course!
Through Daddy's connections
It's the chance of a lifetime-getting a shot at you two lovebirds.

He'll feel like he has to keep it, and it'll be a reminder of how little you know him.
You didn't even ask him what he wants?
You don't want that.
If you get him something he's not interested in, that could be disastrous!!
Um... About that...
YOU HAVEN'T CHOSEN ANYTHING YET?!
You'd better think hard about what Mo actually likes.
It's a big pain
Haven't you ever received a life-sized Moai statue, or insect specimens. .
...or a giant stuffed squid? Come on!
Let's go find one!!
Got it! A motorbike!
The girl is obsessed.

A present?!
So you're going to tell him how you really feel?
Yup!
For Motoharu?
You don't need to worry about being deleted anymore, after all.
The thing I'm worried about is that, to Motoharu, I'm just a friend of his little sister.
Go for it, Mink!
Silly, you can't worry about that kind of thing!
Right, just focus on the birthday present.
...this is the one situation, at least, where I don't want to lie.
Because...
I've made a decision.
I'm going to tell him how I feel as plain ol' Mink Shiraishi

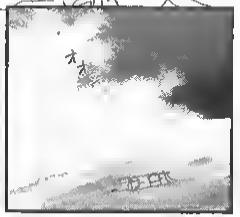
These are what I want.
They'll keep Motoharu safe.
Motoharu?!
I'm not ready for this.
Hey, wait a minute.
Hey, that was-
Shiraishi!?
That girl just bought those gloves, but then she-
But I spotted them first!
Those one-of-a-kind gloves?
What's the matter?
You forgot the gloves!
Hey, Toriumi.
You just paid for them!

A motorbike, a motor-
One-million, five-hundred thousand yen!*
¥1,500,000
GASP
*¥14,500
Are you looking for a bike?
Welcome!
Ahh, those are the same model as the lucky gloves that the legendary Laser used during his winning streak.
It's said that no matter how many times he had an accident, he'd always bounce back, thanks to those gloves.
Bikers say that they'll practically bring you back to life if you just tap them together.
Um, how about these?


We'll be at the port soon.
Wow!
The sea looks so clear.

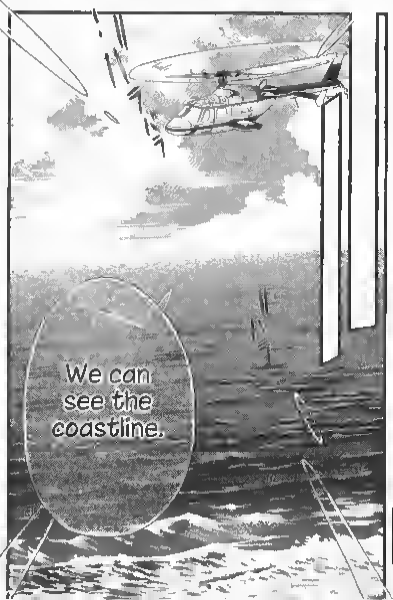
I wonder if we can go swimming
Hmm?

Darn, when am I going to be able to give this to Mink?
I brought it along



What's with that sound?!
What the-?!

She forgot them. She said it was a present, so it was probably for a guy, right?
What a shame. I even gift-wrapped them for her.


We can see the coastline.

If you'd like, I can bring them to her.
I know her.
She's my sister's friend
Really? That'd be great!
What a relief!

No, you can't look!!
LET GO OF ME!
What was that all about?
Seriously.
Whoa, that was close.
← Back to normal
Look at what?
You can just see it now, that island down there.
It's said that there are beasts down around there, and that they howl.
The beasts are calling.
Huh?

She's changing back!
M-Mi-
Mink?!
This can't be!
Not here!
I'll be seen
BINK
Huh?
Aaagh! Scary!!
Cut it out, I can't see!

So you won't go too close to that island, right?
Right?

Hey-
Hey, how did this get here?
I could have sworn that

That's Shiraishi's.
Uh-oh...

How are you supposed to land?!
Look at that island...
...it's surrounded by cliffs all the way around.

But, I mean, "beasts"? Come on.
Well, it's so isolated there could be some species there that don't exist anywhere else.
You heard those noises before, right?
They say that those voices can draw you into the sea if you get too close.

Diagram of Cliff face.
There's only one entrance to that island, through a tunnel.
In other words...
It's under the waves.

Long ago, there was no entrance from sea or shore.
It was the mysterious island where no one could land.

It's exactly...
...exactly as if regular old Mink just came out from inside me before.
I can't do it as Cyber Idol Mink.
But not now!
I want to tell him I love him.
I want to confess to him...

Be careful of that island.
Just now it induced Mink's transformation.

Listen up, you two.

Uh...
...well, actually...
I can't just give it to him now.

I can return these to Mink.
Yeah, that's it
She asked me!
.....

Hey, wait.
I didn't realize you were that tight with her.
I had no clue
This doesn't sound right.

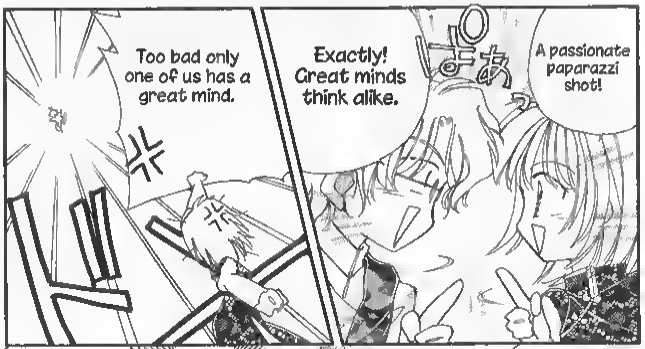
Did Motoharu realize?

Something strange is going on.
Just now it seemed like...
...these belonged to Mink.
But I can't ask her!
I promised!

Whoa, it's gorgeous!
I'd like to introduce you shortly.
Iliya!!
I didn't know you were here
Welcome, Minkie!
Please step this way
What are you mumbling about?
CHU
I'll carry the present with me so I won't lose it.
When this show is over, we'll go back to Tokyo, and then I can--
I'll never get a chance to tell him the truth.
There's a good chance that the voices were just the right wavelength to stimulate..
...the WANNA-BE functions.
I don't know why it only affected Mink, though.
You don't suppose there are really beasts...?
If we hear those howls again...
...I may turn back into regular Mink and if he sees that...

It also seems that it's guarded...
...by the beasts that emit those howls.
.....
Did you hear that?
Uh-huh!
They said there are diamonds.
I want some!
That smells like a scoop.

Of course!
I'm the producer of this campaign's theme song, after all.
By the way, have you heard the talk about that mysterious island?
Uh, yes.
It's an island where they say no human has dared to tread...
It would be perfect for our new promo, though.
So mysterious and all
I just asked someone from around here about it.
They told me that long ago on that mysterious island there must have been diamonds...
...because the sand there now is such a beautiful treasure.


Too bad only one of us has a great mind.
Exactly! Great minds think alike.
A passionate paparazzi shot!

If you could have any kind of present, what would it be, Illiya?
I've got it.
If only I could give some of that sand to you as a present, Mink.
It's almost as pretty as you are!

...I would definitely lose the cutesy hearts and stuff on the wrapping.
Hmmm, let me think.
Well, putting aside the contents for now...

I bet we can get there quickly by boat.
Now here's a thought-- Let's bring Mink with us!

Idiot! Just think-- If Mink disappears...
Right?
Why do that? She'll only be in the way!

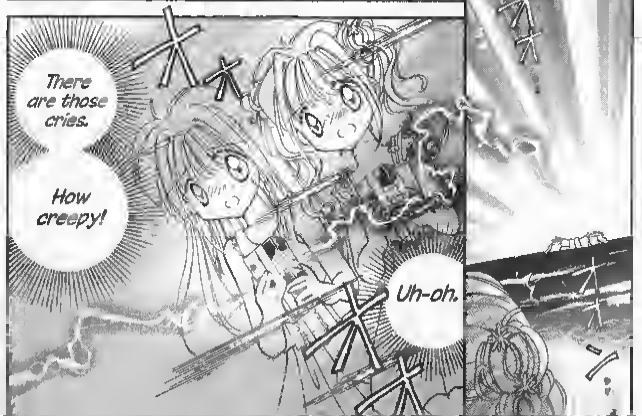
...her beloved manager will have to go look for her!
And then we can take pictures as her manager desperately tries to rescue her.

Wanna go check out that island?
Of course!

I've got to hide!
What do I do now?
You'll catch a cold out there, Mink.
You need a Jacket or something.
I-- I morphed back!!!

Motoharu would probably...
...laugh at that kind of thing, too.
Hearts and stuff
Noooo!!
Mink?!

...he'll probably hate it.
If I give it to him...
sniff...


There are those cries.
How creepy!
Uh-oh.

電脳少女★Mink
Cyber Idol Mink
The Final Chapter
The Island of Shooting Stars (Part II)

Shi-
Shira-ishi...
It's you, isn't it?

Uh, uh, I was going to give this to Mink...
I mean, return it to her, I promised, uh–
A promise? You came all the way here for that?
Something's funny
I was going to tell him, but...
I should have been able to speak up, but...
Oh, well.
So I travelled a long way.
I can't tell him when I'm feeling like this.
This is something that's important to me.
It's really, it's really...
I can't reach him...
... important ...
Huh?

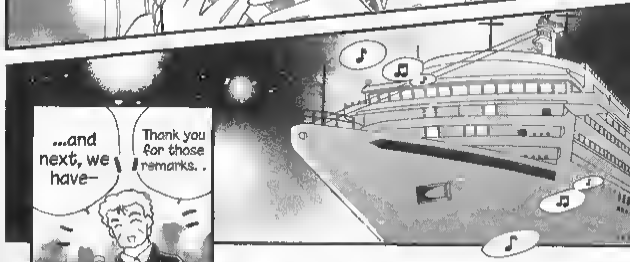
What's going on?
This isn't how I wanted it to be.
I'm finished.
What are you doing here?
I'll never be able to tell him how I feel.

She transformed back.
There she is!
Darn. So much for being brave.
Mink!
I bet Motoharu is starting to think I'm pretty nuts.
Your manager was looking for you.
He said he has something important to talk to you about.
Oh!
He does?!
This way!
Hurry!

Ye-ye-yes!!
Manager Toriumi, there's someone here who wants to meet you.
I'll be right there!!

Why are you crying?!
Wa-wa-wait.

Hmm.
That guy was a little short.


...and next, we have–
Thank you for those remarks. .

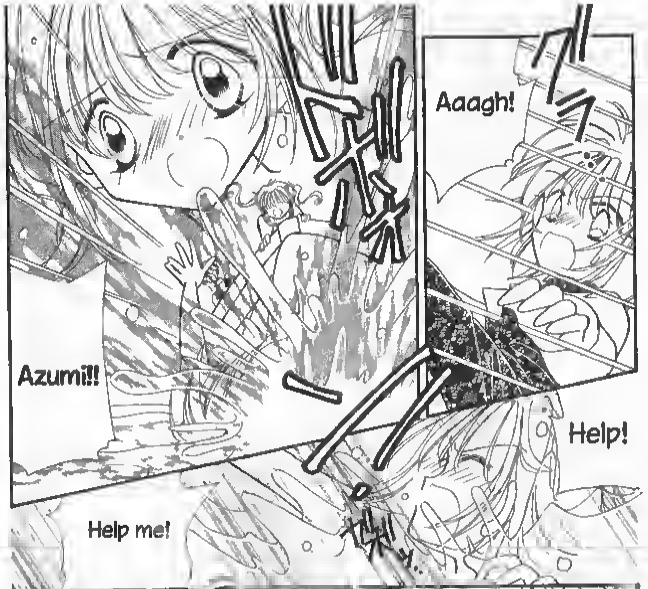
Cyber Idol Mink and Shiraishi are–
They're really the–
Idiot! Couldn't you tell that was a lie?
!!
Where's Motoharu?
Let me go!
Look! Johnny Hotta and someone are out on the water!
ギ…
The sounds of the wild beasts!
They're headed out toward that island, aren't they?
!!

"Motoharu"
Hey, this package is...
"Have a very Happy Birthday!"
リキ…
Th-This means—
This makes my head hurt.
Can it be?
Toriumi! It looks like Mink went somewhere with Azumi.
Is that a good idea?
Huh?!
There they are.
What are you—?
Hurry hurry
Stop pulling me
…フム…

Where are you going?!
Come back!
KATHUMP
If we're here much longer, I'll transform right in front of Motoharu!
KATHUMP
KATHUMP
I won't be able to stay with him...
I won't be able hide the truth anymore.
KATHUMP
KATH

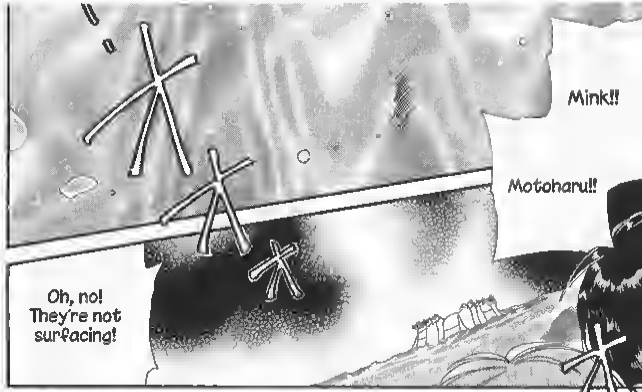
What's that? It's creepy.
Whoa! Idiot-Don't stand up!
This is really bad, Canon!
Don't go!
They can't go near that island!
The howls are luring them in!

Motoharu!
My brother!

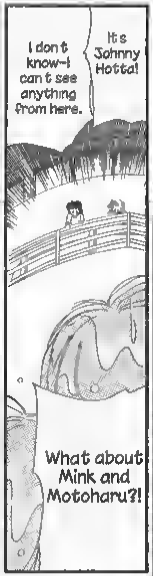

Aaagh!
Azumi!!
Help!
Help me!

Mink!!
I'm coming!
Azumi!

Mink!!
!
There she is!
I'm coming!
EZZT


Mink!!
Motoharu!!
Oh, no! They're not surfacing!

.....
It can't be!


I don't know—I can't see anything from here.
It's Johnny Hotta!
What about Mink and Motoharu?!

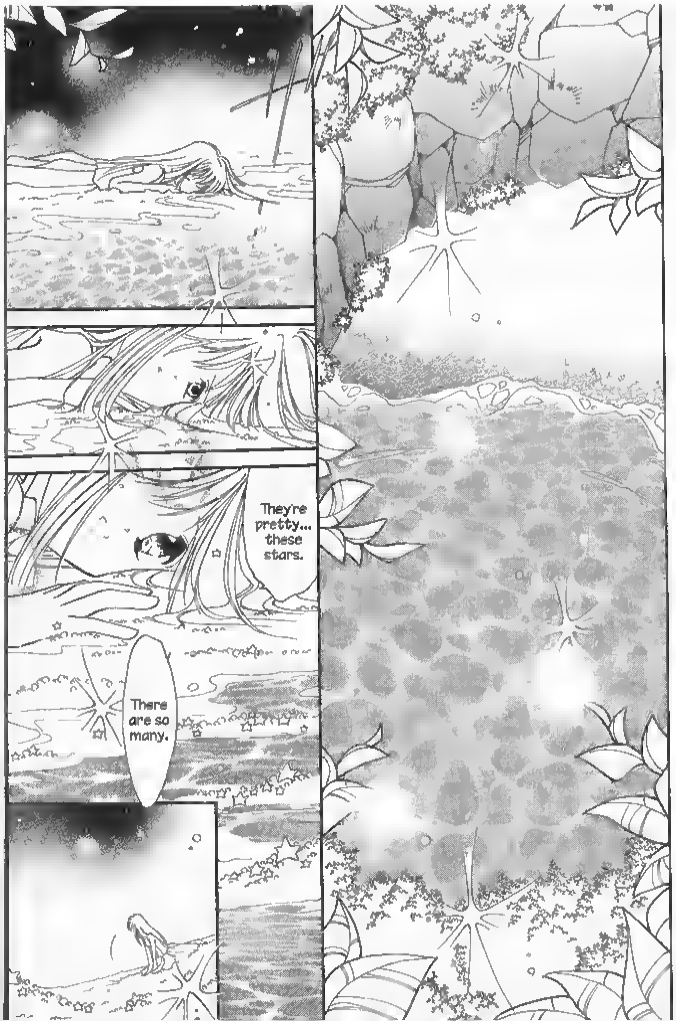
Oh, no... My brother!
Wait!

So that's it.
So that's what it was.

Motoharu...
Please, never ask who...
Promise me one thing.
...I really am!
Just let me stay with you.
Forever.

We're going to die!
I didn't even listen to her.
Didn't she ask me to promise?
This girl...
Not right here in front of me!
You can't just die!

!!
I'm running out of breath.
Hurry!
We're going to the surface.
What the--?!
It's a ceiling!
!!
But what's that?


They're pretty... these stars.
There are so many.

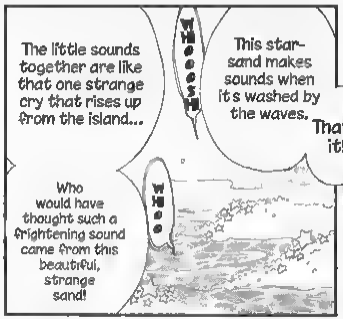
Where's Motoharu?
Mink?
I can't let him see me like this.
I've completely turned back!
I'm right... Aren't I?
K-A-THUMP
K-A-THUMP
K-A-THUMP
Sempai...
It's over for us.
I'm being found out.
K-A-THUMP
K-A-THUMP
I'm so sorry.
I'm sorry...
...I've been living a lie..
Now Motoharu knows everything.
And I still don't know how to tell him how I feel.
K-A-THUMP
K-A-THUMP
K-A-THUMP

This...
...this is that mystery island.
The island is enclosed and protected.
Awesome! It's like a sheet of star-sand.
The wind must have carried these stars here.
And made them fall.

I've thought so ever since I first met you.
From the beginning, I just wanted to be near you.
I think that I love you.
That was enough for me.
I don't want anything except that.

"I want to know...
...more about you, Mink."
That's what I wanted to say.
That's what I wanted...
...for my birthday.

My sweet Mink?
That name.
I thought I would be revealed in the murmuring of the star-sand...
...I thought I would come undone.
I'm so happy.


The little sounds together are like that one strange cry that rises up from the island...
Who would have thought such a frightening sound came from this beautiful, strange sand!
This star-sand makes sounds when it's washed by the waves.
That's it!
Ah!...

Like the gloves protected us...
...and protected this beautiful place.
That story about the monsters was probably just a way...
...for the locals to guard the star-sand.

Or rather...

Well.

Shiraishi?
Now, you're not hiding anything else from me.
Are you?

We'll both always be near...
...the one we love.
The End.

Don't touch that dial.
We'll be right back with Mink.
Good luck.
Okay, you go for it, Mink!
I will!
From here on out...
Because...
...both Mink AND Cyber Idol Mink will live on.

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MINK

Cyber Security has caught Kyo, Mink and her friends for the illegal use of the WANNA-BE program–the girls' popstar counterparts will be deleted from history at midnight on December 31! But wait! Minkle's final concert is scheduled for that night! The theme is Cinderella, the date is New Year's Eve, and the clock is approaching twelve midnight. Is the fairy tale simply over? Or will Mink find her happy ending? Uncover the magic in this final volume of *Mink!*

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